

Wage and Hour Division, Labor

§ 549.3

may be determined by factors such as length of service or minimum schedule of hours or days of work which are specified in the plan or trust, and further, that eligibility need not extend to officers of the employer; or

(2) To such classifications of employees as the employer may designate with the approval of the Administrator upon a finding, after notice to interested persons, including employee representatives, and an opportunity to present their views either orally or in writing, that it is in accord with the meaning and intent of the provisions of section 7(e)(3)(b) of the Act and this part. The Administrator may give such notice by requiring the employer to post a notice approved by the Administrator for a specified period in a place or places where notices to employees are customarily posted or at such other place or places designated by the Administrator, or he may require notice to be given in such other manner as he deems appropriate.

(e) The amounts paid to individual employees are determined in accordance with a definite formula or method of calculation specified in the plan or trust. The formula or method of calculation may be based on any one or more or more of such factors as straight-time earnings, total earnings, base rate of pay of the employee, straight-time hours or total hours worked by employees, or length of service, or distribution may be made on a per capita basis.

(f) An employee's total share determined in accordance with paragraph (e) of this section may not be diminished because of any other remuneration received by him.

(g) Provision is made either for payment to the individual employees of their respective shares of profits within a reasonable period after the determination of the amount of profits to be distributed, or for the irrevocable deposit by the employer of his employees' distributive shares of profits with a trustee for deferred distribution to such employees of their respective shares after a stated period of time or upon the occurrence of appropriate contingencies specified in the plan or trust: *Provided, however*, That the right of an employee to receive his share is

not made dependent upon his continuing in the employ of the employer after the period for which the determination of profits has been made.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1215-0122)

[18 FR 3292, June 10, 1953, as amended at 47 FR 145, Jan. 5, 1982]

§ 549.2 Disqualifying provisions.

No plan or trust which contains any one of the following provisions shall be deemed to meet the requirements of a bona fide profit-sharing plan or trust under section 7(e)(3)(b) of the Act:

(a) If the share of any individual employee is determined in substance on the basis of attendance, quality or quantity of work, rate of production, or efficiency;

(b) If the amount to be paid periodically by the employer into the fund or trust to be distributed to the employees is a fixed sum;

(c) If periodic payments of minimum amounts to the employees are guaranteed by the employer;

(d) If any individual employee's share, by the terms of the plan or trust, is set at a predetermined fixed sum or is so limited as to provide in effect for the payment of a fixed sum, or is limited to or set at a predetermined specified rate per hour or other unit of work or worktime;

(e) If the employer's contributions or allocations to the fund or trust to be distributed to the employees are based on factors other than profits such as hours of work, production, efficiency, sales or savings in cost.

§ 549.3 Distinction between plan and trust.

As used in this part:

(a) *Profit-sharing plan* means any such program or arrangement as qualifies hereunder which provides for the distribution by the employer to his employees of their respective shares of profits;

(b) *Profit-sharing trust* means any such program or arrangement as qualifies under this part which provides for the irrevocable deposit by the employer of his employees' distributive